

LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 25 November 1985

1. (Lowcock) [redacted] PMCD. called today to report on his 19-22 November Panama IDY. [redacted] had been tasked with studying FBN technician and administrative positions at the bureau. He also had a list of questions from PMCD's S&T classifiers to conduct a desk audit of the bureau chief position and the bureau request to upgrade one senior editor position to a GS-13 chief editor position. Given the existing bureau configuration with an American staff engineer overseeing the local technical staff, Norm is not supportive of the bureau chief's request to upgrade the FBN technicians' positions. This could be reconsidered later were the American staff engineer position ever transferred from Panama. He also believes the administrative assistant positions are correctly classified at their current level given the lack of TCN employees at the bureau. Norm is strongly supportive of the proposed chief editor position and believes the position description submitted by the bureau presents a strong case. [redacted] is in the process of updating the deputy chief position description to reflect the increasing time that must be devoted to bureau management issues such as ROSET, INTERNET and other functions in direct support of the chief leaving little time for the supervisory and day-to-day operational functions which would devolve upon the new chief editor position. Norm said he is not in a position to comment on the bureau chief classification, but did give [redacted] some advice on revising the position description to more fully reflect the growing complexity of the job. At the request of the teletypists, Norm met with them to discuss their complaint about topping-out at the FBN-5 (journeyman operator) position. Norm supported the bureau policy and staffing configuration (1 FBN-7 supervisor, 1 FBN-6 deputy supervisor and the remaining FBN-5 journeyman operators), noting that the teletypists were very well paid at FBN-5 given the GS scale used at the bureau. [redacted] will be preparing a trip report for FBIS and PMCD review.

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(cc: D/FBIS, C/DRD, C/Panama Bureau, C/AS)